

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

9 JONATHAN LEE RICHES,) No. C 07-6154 MJJ (PR)
10 Plaintiff,)
11 v.)
12 MICHAEL SKAKEL, et al.,)
13 Defendants.)
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15 Plaintiff, a federal prisoner proceeding pro se, filed this pro se complaint under 42
U.S.C. § 1983 against Michael Skakel and Martha Moxley.

16 A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks
17 redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. §
18 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that
19 are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary
20 relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings
21 must, however, be liberally construed. See *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699
22 (9th Cir. 1988). To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
23 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and
24 (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. See
25 *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

26 Sections 1915A and 1915(e)(2) accord judges the unusual power to pierce the veil of
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1 the complaint's factual allegations and dismiss as frivolous those claims whose factual
2 contentions are clearly baseless. See Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 32 (1992).
3 Examples are claims describing fantastic or delusional scenarios with which federal district
4 judges are all too familiar. See Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 328 (1989). To pierce the
5 veil of the complaint's factual allegations means that a court is not bound, as it usually is
6 when making a determination based solely on the pleadings, to accept without question the
7 truth of the plaintiff's allegations. See Denton, 504 U.S. at 32. A finding of factual
8 frivolousness is appropriate when the facts alleged rise to the level of the irrational or the
9 wholly incredible, whether or not there are judicially noticeable facts available to contradict
10 them. See id. at 32-33.

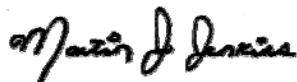
11 Plaintiff alleges that Skakel was "was used as a patsy scapegoat to pretend he killed
12 Moxley," whom plaintiff alleges is currently living in the Cayman Islands with Kenneth Lay.
13 Plaintiff further alleges that Senator Kennedy helped Skakel as a fugitive. Plaintiff claims that this
14 was all part of Skakel's "vast conspiracy with Senator Kennedy and Judiciary Chairman Conyers to
15 justify higher sentencing on inmates." Plaintiff also alleges he wanted to "become a monk, but
16 Burma Guards subject me to Christianity." As plaintiff's allegations are clearly baseless, irrational
17 or wholly incredible, the complaint will be dismissed as frivolous under sections 1915A and
18 1915(e)(2).

19 For the foregoing reasons, this action is DISMISSED.

20 The Clerk shall close the file.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATED: December 21, 2007



23 MARTIN J. JENKINS
United States District Judge

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